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SLNT Members Explore Laborie's Heritage

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Members at Quarterly Meeting in Laborie

In a continued effort to stage its activities in various parts of the island, the Saint Lucia National Trust (SLNT) held its first Quarterly Membership Meeting for 2019 in the village of Laborie on Saturday, March 16th. Members were updated on the following projects - the proposed Dolphin Park: the Trust was informed by

government that Cabinet would be issuing a statement early in 2019, and that the Secretariat has been writing to the authorities requesting updates but to no avail; members were also told that the Cruise lines have expressed concerns about destinations with dolphin parks and it is hoped that government will consider the related negative implications for cruise tourism in Saint Lucia when deciding on this project. Members were advised that the organization has been operating with a deficit budget and this is primarily due to the removal of the subvention since 2017. Whilst members moved a motion at the last Annual General Meeting to take the issue of the subvention to court, it was decided to make one more attempt to have the subvention reinstated before pursuing this matter in the courts. Members were also informed that a suite of projects was submitted to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Tourism, as requested for government's consideration.



Consultant Yves Renard presents
Strategic Plan Review

Following the update on the work of the Trust, consultant Yves Renard presented on the Strategic Plan Review. He indicated that based on interviews and a survey that was conducted with Trust members, the public and various agencies, it was revealed

that while persons believed that the Trust has undertaken many conservation projects, it might be in need of a new mandate and it might be spreading itself too thin. Mr. Renard also said respondents indicated that the Trust should place more focus on advocating for legislation, policies and guidelines geared at conserving Saint Lucia's built and natural heritage.

According to Mr. Renard, "Following a series of consultations with members, Councillors, staff, partners and other interested individuals, this quarterly meeting provided a really good opportunity to present the main directions that the National Trust should consider over the next ten years. In particular, it confirmed the unique role of the Trust in preserving and promoting Saint Lucia's natural and cultural patrimony, and the need for greater attention to the built



Yves Renard leads discussion at historical site in Laborie

heritage. We can now proceed, with additional consultations, with the preparation of a full strategic plan."

After the meeting, members enjoyed a brief tour of Ti-Tou, an enchanting beach in Laborie where they saw the ruins of a first generation sugar mill. Apart from taking in the beautiful scenery, members participated in a useful discussion on measures that can be

taken to preserve the ruins which form part of the community's rich historical (industrial) heritage. The SLNT thanks the Laborie Development Foundation for the facilitating the tour. For more information on how to become a member of the Trust and contribute to conserving the island's heritage please call 1758-452-5005, email membership@slunatrust.org, visit www.slunatrust.org or search for 'Saint Lucia National Trust' on Facebook.